

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4765

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 1567

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AR, CS (AMOEDO, JULIO AURELIO)

SUBJECT: BIO INFO ON NEW ARGENTINE AMB TO COSTA RICA

REF: SAN JOSE 1162

1. AMOEDO WAS BORN IN BUENOS AIRES ON MAY 24, 1915, AND ATTENDED U OF BUENOS AIRES. A LAWYER, HE IS NOT RPT NOT A PERONIST; RATHER, HE IS A MEMBER OF THE POPULAR CONSERVATIVE PARTY HEADED BY VICENTE SOLANO LIMA. THE POPULAR CONSERVATIVES ARE PART OF THE FRENTE JUSTICIALISTA DE LIBERACION, THE RULING COALITION HEADED BY THE PERONISTS. SOLANO LIMA HIMSELF WAS VICE PRES DURING THE BRIEF CAMPORA PERIOD. ALTHOUGH HE RESIGNED HIS VICE PRESIDENCY IN JULY OF 1973 ALONG WITH CAMPORA, UNLIKE THE LATTER, HE DID NOT FALL FROM PERON'S FAVOR. ON THE CONTRARY, WHEN PERON HIMSELF BECAME PRES HE MADE SOLANO LIMA THE SEC OF THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENCY, A POSITION IN WHICH HE WAS COSIDERED TO BE THE VIRTUAL PRIME MIN OF THE COUNTRY.

2. JULIO AMOEDO HAS LONG BEEN SOLANO LIMA'S RIGHTHAND MAN. HE WAS APPOINTED AMB TO VENEZUELA IN JAN OF 1974 WHILE SOLANO LIMA WAS STILL RIDING HIGH.

GIVEN THE FACT THAT SOLANO LIMA NO LONGER PLAYS ANY ROLE IN THE GOVT NOR HAS POWER POSITION IN THE ARGENTINE POLITICAL SCENE, MOST OBSERVERS WERE SURPRISED WHEN AMOEDO, HAVING BEEN ND# SOLANO

LIMA WERE KNOWN ASBITTER CRITICS OF MRS. PERON AND HER PALACE FAVORITE, JOSE LOPEZ REGA.

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3. AMOEDO'S FIRST AMBASSADORIAL ASSIGNMENT WAS UNDER FRONDIZI IN 1958 WHEN HE WAS SENT TO BE ARGENTINE ENVOY IN HAVANA. THERE AMOEDO PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN EFFORTS TO BRING ABOUT SUCCESSFUL NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN CASTRO AND USG. IN 1962, FOLLOWING ARGENTINA'S SEVERANCE OF DIP RELATIONS WITH CUBA, AMOEDO WAS SENT AS AMB TO GUATEMALA.

4. AMOEDO IS VERY FRIENDLY WITH AMERICANS AND WELL DISPOSED TOWARDS THE USG. HE IS EXCEEDINGLY PROUD OF THE ROLE HE PLAYED IN THE CUBAN SITUATION AND OF THE DIRECT CONTACT HE HAD WITH PRES KENNEDY AT THAT TIME. AMOEDO WAS VERY HELPFUL TO OFFICERS OF THIS EMBASSY BEFORE HIS TRANSFER TO CARACAS.

5. AMOEDO HAS SOME MONEY OF HIS OWN AND HIS WIFE INES IS THE STEP-DAUGHTER OF ALFREDO FORTABAT, ONE OF THE WEALTHIEST INDUSTRIALISTS IN ARGENTINA UNTIL HIS DEMISE SOME MONTHS BACK. THE PRESENT MRS. AMOEDO IS HIS SECOND WIFE, THE FIRST HAVING LEFT HIM WHILE HE WAS STATIONED IN HAVANA. MRS. AMOEDO IS GREGARIOUS AND HAS A REPUTATION OF BEING SOMETHING OF A GYPSY.

6. AMOEDO SPEAKS FRENCH AND SOME ITALIAN IN ADDITION TO SPANISH. ALTHOUGH HE HAS UPON OCCASION SAID THAT HE SPEAKS SOME ENGLISH, OFFICERS IN THE EMBASSY HERE FOUND IT TO BE RUDIMENTARY AT BEST.
HILL

NOTE BY OC/T: # AS RECEIVED.

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